

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatus are provided to produce a plurality of different rate output bitstreams from a common input bit stream. Overhead data is extracted from the input bit stream. The input bit stream is partially decoded. Thereafter, the at least partially decoded bit stream is re-encoded at different rates, to produce multiple re-encoded bit streams having different rates. The overhead data is combined with each re-encoded bit stream, thereby providing multiple versions of said encoded bit stream at different rates.

April 5, 2001